forming the Council, is there any court verdict, which is standing in the way of the formation of this Council because there are some professional disputes, like, the certification question, qualification question, etc.?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already answered this issue. It is going to be submitted as it has been passed by the Cabinet. I don't foresee any other circumstance where this is going to be checked because very soon it is going to be introduced.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHIING: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Minister that in my State we have hundreds of Herbalists and also Physiotherapists who may not be professionally trained, but who have learned through hundreds of years of experience. The hon. President of India had very kindly invited 20 of them to the Rashtrapati Bhawan. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Health Ministry has involved any of them in the formation of this Council and other Councils because this is part of our ancient culture, and is part of Ayurvedic medicine in India?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Pertaining to ayurvedic medicine, I want to say that it does not come under this Council; it comes under the other Ayurvedic Council. And, Sir, I would like to state that in the proposed Bill, protection is given to the existing professionals and they would also be involved in the coming Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether ayurvedic...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. There is no need to give any reply.

Cost of production of medicines

†*145. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for pharmaceutical companies to print the cost of production of medicines on each and every medicine pack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

†Question Nos. 145 and 146 were taken together.

(d) whether Government have also discussed this issue with Finance Ministers and Health Ministers of States recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of medicines at reasonable prices to the general public?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No decision has been taken to make it compulsory for pharmaceutical companies to print the cost of production of medicines on each and every medicine pack.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

(d) and (e) A meeting of Finance Ministers and Health Ministers of all States/Union Territories was held on 18.8.2004 to discuss, *inter-alia*, the issue of MRP of medicines. However, as the States did not generally agree to the proposal of either exempting medicines from sale tax or reducing sale tax on medicines to uniform level, no final solution could be found on this issue in the meeting.

(f) The drug policies, as announced from time to time, are directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

दवाओं के अधिक मूल्य

146. श्री राजमोहिन्दर सिंह मजीठा:
श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल के वर्षों में अनेक दवा निर्माता कंपनियों ने अनेक दवाओं के निर्धारित मूल्यों से अधिक मूल्य वसूल कर अतिरिक्त लाभांश कमाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये कंपनियां कौन-कौन सी हैं;

(ग) किन-किन दवाओं के लिए अतिरिक्त मूल्य वसूल किया गया है;